

31 Sherman Terrace #4
Madison, WI 53704

2019 '00 JAN -5 P2 05 December 29, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

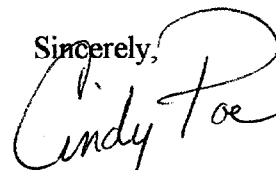
Docket No. 92N-0139

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge the FDA to require labeling of genetically modified foods. There *are* people who, for health and religious reasons, do need to know exactly what is in the food they eat. Furthermore, the rest of us need labels so that we can choose, should we want to choose, the social system of production that we will support as consumers. By now, the FDA should be well aware that large numbers of food consumers do care about the social and political impact of the agricultural systems that produce the food we eat. For example, vegetarians, consumers of organic foods, and those of us who support local farmers by purchasing foods from farmers' markets and local food cooperatives make our choices not merely because we think the foods we buy are better for us, but also because we want to support particular systems of production. We want to support systems that maximize food yield, that minimize the adverse impact on the environment, and that sustain rural communities. Genetically modified foods are the product of a particular system of production that has specific social and political impacts. Without labels, consumers cannot choose whether to support, or not support, that system.

Don't underestimate the intelligence of consumers. Frankly, I take offense at the argument that the mere existence of labels will mislead us. I don't assume that a content label on any other product in and of itself means that the product is harmful. If you want to assuage concerns, provide information. Resistance to the labeling of genetically modified foods is far more suggestive than the existence of any labels -- suggestive that there is something to hide whether it has to do with the quality of the food or the system that produces it.

Sincerely,



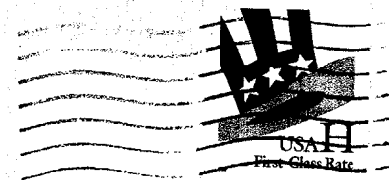
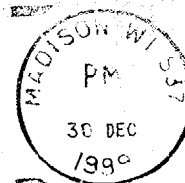
Cindy Poe

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